

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After analysing the social conflicts of Mario Puzo's *The Godfather*, I found some issues in relation to power. In this chapter, I would like to draw some conclusions.

There are six social conflicts in the story. The first conflict is between young Vito Corleone and Don Fanucci, this conflict happens because Don Fanucci starts to extort money from Vito. Fanucci is a powerful mafia boss in Vito's area who is known for his greed and violence. Vito does not want to give him money because Vito does not owe him anything. Vito decides to murder Fanucci to resolve the conflict. The second conflict is between Vito Corleone and Michael Corleone. The conflict happens when Vito wants Michael to be the next leader of the Corleone Family when he retires. However, Michael refuses to get involved in the mafia business; he wants to live his own life without being a mafia. The conflict is resolved because Michael finally decides to become the next leader. The third social conflict is between Vito Corleone and Virgil Sollozzo. This conflict happens because Vito refuses to protect Sollozzo's

narcotics business in New York City. Vito does not agree to help Sollozzo because Vito might lose his friends in politics and law enforcement if they know Vito has a narcotics business. Sollozzo tries to murder Vito but he fails and then Michael kills Sollozzo to resolve the conflict.

The fourth social conflict is between Vito Corleone and the Five families of New York City. This conflict happens when Vito decides to bring Michael back to New York City. Vito needs to make an arrangement with the Five families so they will stop the war and Michael can go home safely. This conflict is solved because Vito makes an arrangement with the Five families. Vito agrees to support the Five families' narcotics business while the Five Families agree to stop hunting Michael. The fifth social conflict is between Michael Corleone and his two *caporegimes*, Salvatore Tessio and Pete Clemenza. This conflict happens when Vito retires and Michael becomes the new leader of the Corleone family. Tessio and Clemenza do not agree with Michael's strategy in dealing with the current problem in the family. Tessio and Clemenza want more manpower but Michael does not give them permission to recruit more manpower. This conflict is resolved after Michael and his two generals reach an agreement. The generals will stay under Michael's command for one year and then they can form their own families and have their own gambling business. The sixth social conflict is between Michael Corleone, Don Barzini, and Don Tattaglia. Corleone family is in danger because the Barzini and Tattaglia families are trying hard to destroy them. As the new leader of the Corleone family, Michael decides to resolve the conflict by murdering them.

After analysing the novel, there are some interesting facts, firstly, all the social conflicts which exist between the characters in the novel are related with power. The social conflicts happen because the characters are trying to abuse their power, regain more power or preserve their power.

Secondly, I notice that the resolutions of the social conflicts in the story are mostly through murders. Resolution through an agreement rarely happens. The organized crime families tend to resolve their conflicts by eliminating their enemies. Italian mafia in America is known for its violence. The members are responsible for many crimes including murders.

In conclusion, through the conflicts Mario Puzo wants to show that hunger for power leads to deadly conflicts. The author also shows the reader about how violent the underworld Mafia families in New York City are. The author might be inspired by the real situation in America at that time. The organized crime families in the novel, known as The Five Families of New York City, actually exist in the real world. Mario Puzo changes the family names in this novel.

Having reached a conclusion, I am sure that the author has succeeded to show how violent the Mafia world is through the social conflicts. I think all the social conflicts in this novel are connected with human hunger for power. The characters have conflicts with one another because they want more and more power. Finally, I can say that *The Godfather* has made me understand how horrible the resolution of the social conflicts that occur because of hunger for power. The need for more power can affect human actions and attitudes. Therefore, I would like to suggest that as human beings and social creatures, we

must have the ability to control our desire for power because if we do not have control over our hunger for power, we cannot achieve peace in our mind and in our life.